

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the claims of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-27, 82-95, and 115 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation applications.

Claims 129 and 130 are new and are supported throughout the specification including at page 33, line 24 to page 34, line 6; and page 41, lines 23-33.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6-7, 12-15, 19-20, 25, 28-30, 33-34, 38-44, 50, 52-54, 60, 63-64, 69, 71, 74, 96, 100, 104, 109-110, 116, and 122. Claims 1, 12, 19, 25, 38, 39, 42, 50, 52-54, 63-64, 71, 74, and 122 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 6-7, 13-15, 20, 28-30, 33-34, 40-41, 43-44, 60, 69, 96, 100, 104, 109-110, and 116 have been amended to correct claim dependency, provide for proper antecedent basis and for claim language consistency. No new matter enters by way of this amendment.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank Examiner Huynh and her supervisor for the interview conducted on August 20, 2007. We discussed that the method was a general method that could be applied to any antibody or antigen binding fragment. Applicants described a specific example based on an antibody heavy chain variable domain sequence from GenBank record 1BEYH. The examiner indicated that the data in the specification was directed to the heavy chain. The examiner suggested that the claims be amended to include active method steps. The examiner also suggested that claims that have specific amino acid positions require a reference sequence. The examiner also suggested that the language of claim 33 was awkward and should be rephrased. Applicants and the Examiner agreed that a supplemental amendment could be submitted in view of the interview.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph (Written Description)

Claims 1-74 and 82-127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 12, first paragraph, for an alleged lack of written description. The Examiner has several basis for the rejection including: 1) the

structure of the antibody such as amino acid sequence; 2) whether the FR is from heavy or light chain; 3) the type of amino acids to be substituted; and 4) the position or location of amino acids in the FR or mixture of FR. Applicants traverse this rejection.

While not acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to address the rejection. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1-74 and 82-127 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-74 and 82-127 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for purportedly being indefinite. Applicants traverse the rejection. While not acquiescing to the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, the claims have been amended to address the rejection. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

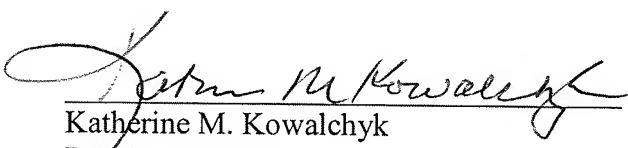
Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 31, 2007


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